

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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**SUPERINTENDENT TOM HORNE ANNOUNCES ARIZONA WINS
HIGHLY COMPETITIVE GRANT TOTALING 3.6
MILLION DOLLARS**

Six states out of 21 applying receive high quality leadership development

PHOENIX (Wednesday, November 10, 2004) -- Arizona School Superintendent Tom Horne announced today that Arizona was one of six states that was awarded the prestigious Wallace Foundation Grant to assist in the development of high quality educational leadership. Arizona competed against 21 other states for the Wallace Foundation Grant. Arizona will receive 3.6 million dollars over 3 years to be distributed at seven school districts.

The seven school districts receiving funds over the next three years are: Phoenix Elementary District; Sunnyside Unified District; Issac School District; Tucson Unified School District; Red Mesa School District; Chinle Unified School District and Washington Elementary School District. The grant will also provide opportunities to address conditions to improve educational leadership across Arizona, such as providing incentives for outstanding educational leaders.

Horne stated: "All studies show that leadership is the key to high quality schools. This grant will therefore play a crucial role in raising academic standards in Arizona."

Horne expressed special thanks to Governor Janet Napolitano for jointly applying with the Department for the Wallace Foundation Grant.

Governor Napolitano thanked Horne and the various stakeholders for the months of work that went into the grant application and explained why this effort is so important. "Without strong leadership, today's reforms cannot be sustained. This initiative is key to creating the quality and sustainability we need to be a leader in K-12 education."

Horne stated further, "The partners in the grant include representatives from the professional organizations; representatives from all Arizona universities that have leadership preparation programs; representatives from business and community organizations, private foundations and Arizona's Educational Regional Laboratory, WestEd."

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Horne concluded, “Leadership needs to occur at all levels. We must build and support strong board members, superintendents, principals and teacher leaders to see gains in student achievement. The Wallace Foundation Grant helps the state accomplish this goal.”

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